

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces and supersedes all previous listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A security element, which has at least one area with a diffraction structure embossed during an embossing process with an embossing die, which under specific viewing conditions reconstructs a diffractive image, wherein the area has subareas being free of any diffraction structures, the subareas do not take part in the reconstruction of the diffractive image and represent a recognizable information, wherein the subareas and the diffraction structure surrounding the subareas have the same or at least very similar reflecting properties under viewing conditions, under which the diffraction structure does not represent a diffractive image, so that the recognizable information represented by the subareas is recognizable substantially only under the specific viewing conditions, under which the diffraction structure reconstructs the diffractive image, and wherein at least one of said subareas is produced during the embossing process with the embossing die already providing the at least one of said subareas being free of any diffraction structures.

2. (Currently Amended) The security element according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the area has a first reflection layer, which supports the reconstruction of the diffractive image.

3. (Currently Amended) The security element according to claim 1 76, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the subareas have no diffraction structure, and that ~~a~~ the first reflection layer is disposed in both the area of the diffraction structure and the area of the subareas.

4. (Currently Amended) The security element according to claim 1 76, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the area has a transparent plastic layer, in which the diffraction structure is present in the form of a relief structure, that ~~a~~ the first reflection layer is disposed on the surface of the plastic layer which is provided with the diffraction structure, and that the opposite surface of the plastic layer has a second reflection layer, wherein the subareas are formed by gaps in the first reflection layer.

5. (Currently Amended) The security element according to claim 4, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first and second reflection layer are made of materials having substantially the same reflecting properties.

6-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A security element, which has at least one area with a diffraction structure embossed during an embossing process with an embossing die, which under specific viewing conditions reconstructs a diffractive image, wherein the area has subareas being free of any diffraction structures, the subareas do not take part in the reconstruction of the diffractive image and represent a recognizable information, wherein the subareas form a not diffractive contrast image, so that the recognizable information represented by the subareas is recognizable under viewing conditions differing from the specific viewing conditions, under which the diffraction structure reconstructs ~~of~~ the diffractive image, and wherein at least one of said subareas is produced during the embossing process with the embossing die already providing the at least one of said subareas being free of any diffraction structures.

10. (Currently Amended) The security element according to claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the area has a transparent plastic layer, in which the diffraction structure is present in the form of a relief structure, and that a ~~the~~ first reflection layer is disposed on the surface of the plastic layer which is provided with the diffraction structure, wherein the subareas are formed by gaps in the first reflection layer.

11. (Currently Amended) The security element according to claim 10, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the opposite surface of the plastic layer has a second reflection layer, wherein the first and second reflection layer are made of differently-colored materials.

12. (Currently Amended) The security element according to claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the area is disposed on a transparent carrier, so that the information represented by the subareas is recognizable in transmitted light.

13-38. (Canceled).

39. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a security element, comprising

- embossing during an embossing process with an embossing die at least one area with a diffraction structure, which under specific viewing conditions reconstructs a diffractive image,
- producing subareas of the area which do not take part in the reconstruction of the diffractive image, represents a recognizable information, and are integrated in the area with the diffraction structure such that the subareas and the diffraction structure surrounding the subareas have the same or at least very similar reflecting properties under viewing conditions, under which the diffraction structure does not represent a diffractive image, so that the recognizable information represented by the subareas is recognizable mainly only under the specific viewing conditions, under which the diffraction structure reconstructs ~~of~~ the diffractive image, wherein at least one of said subareas is produced during the embossing process with the embossing die already providing the at least one said subareas being free of any diffraction structures.

40-47. (Canceled).

48. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a security element, comprising

- embossing during an embossing process with an embossing die at least one area with a diffraction structure, which under specific viewing conditions reconstructs a diffractive image,
- producing subareas of the area which do not take part in the reconstruction of the diffractive image, represent a recognizable information and are integrated in the area with the diffraction structure such that the subareas form a not diffractive contrast image, so that the

recognizable information represented by the subareas is recognizable under viewing conditions differing from the specific viewing conditions, under which the diffraction structure reconstructs of the diffractive image, wherein at least one of said subareas is produced during the embossing process with the embossing die already providing the at least one of said subareas being free of any diffraction structures.

49-58. (Canceled).

59. (Previously Presented) The security element of claim 5 wherein said materials are the same material.

60-61. (Canceled).

62. (Previously Presented) The security element of claim 11 wherein said materials are differently-colored metals.

63. (Currently Amended) The security element of claim 62 ~~wherein~~ wherein said metals are at least one of aluminum, copper or gold.

64-76. (Canceled).